

THE YALE REVIEW

Edited by WILBUR L. CROSS

JANUARY



1917

A Progressive's View of the Election	<i>Walter Lippmann</i>
Women in the Campaign	<i>Frances A. Kellor</i>
The Railroads and the People	<i>James O. Fagan</i>
The Adamson Law	<i>Edwin J. Clapp</i>
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The Prolongation of Peace	<i>Simeon Strunsky</i>
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George Moore	<i>Duncan Phillips</i>
Books for Tired Eyes	<i>Arthur E. Bostwick</i>
There's Pippins and Cheese to Come	<i>Charles S. Brooks</i>
The New Poetry	<i>John Erskine</i>
Three Poems	<i>Amy Lowell</i>
Highmount. <i>A Poem</i>	<i>Louis Untermeyer</i>
Not to Keep. <i>A Poem</i>	<i>Robert Frost</i>
Boyhood Friends. <i>A Poem</i>	<i>Edgar Lee Masters</i>
Book Reviews	

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NOT TO KEEP


By ROBERT FROST ⁶

Louis Merz

They sent him back to her. The letter came
Saying . . . and she could have him. And before
She could be sure there was no hidden ill
Under the formal writing, he was in her sight—
Living.—They gave him back to her alive—
How else? They are not known to send the dead—
And not disfigured visibly. His face?—
His hands? She had to look—to ask
“What was it, dear?” And she had given all
And still she had all—*they* had—they the lucky!
Wasn’t she glad now? Everything seemed won,
And all the rest for them permissible ease.
She had to ask “What was it, dear?”

“Enough,

Yet not enough. A bullet through and through,
High in the breast. Nothing but what good care
And medicine and rest—and you a week,
Can cure me of to go again.” The same
Grim giving to do over for them both.
She dared no more than ask him with her eyes
How was it with him for a second trial.
And with his eyes he asked her not to ask.
They had given him back to her, but not to keep.



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